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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making siRNA in vitro, the method comprising the steps of:

recombinantly coexpressing a Dicer protein with a *Drosophila* R2D2 protein to form a complex comprising the R2D2 protein and the Dicer protein in vitro, and

contacting the complex with a target double-stranded (ds) RNA comprising a predetermined sequence under conditions wherein the complex cleaves the dsRNA into siRNA in vitro.

2. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the Dicer protein is a *Drosophila* Dicer-2 protein.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the Dicer protein and the R2D2 protein are coexpressed using a baculovirus expression system in insect cells selected from the group consisting of S2, Sf9 and Hi5 cells.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the Dicer protein and the R2D2 protein are coexpressed using a baculovirus expression system in insect cells selected from the group consisting of S2, Sf9 and Hi5 cells.

5. (canceled)